

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

### 1946.

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	26,881 acres
Population	9,730
Number of inhabited houses	2,671
Rateable Value (1st April, 1946)	£62,508
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£293
	1946/47

Although on first seeing this district would appear to be entirely rural and therefore it might be concluded our villages would depend entirely on agriculture, the close proximity of several small industrial towns has had effect on the population. Also, as a result of the war, several villages have had influxes of industrial workers, some of whom are still resident in the new houses provided for them.

Population.			
Atworth	780	Agriculture	One new industry
Broughton Gifford	700	Mainly Agriculture	
Hilperton	830	Agriculture	
Holt	1,140	Agriculture	Tanyard and Leather Factory
			Mattress Factory
Limpley Stoke	530	Agriculture	Residential
Melksham Without	2,050	Mainly Agriculture	
Monkton Farleigh	380	Agriculture	Large Government works
Semington	430	Mainly Agriculture	
South Wraxall	440	Mainly Agriculture	
Staverton	260	Agriculture	Large "Milk" factory
Westwood	940	Agriculture	Industrial transferred war industry
Wingfield	280	Agriculture	
Winsley	970	Agriculture	Residential

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

Births		M.	F.	Total
Live Births—	Legitimate	80	86	166
	Illegitimate	12	4	16
		92	90	182
Still Births—	Legitimate	2	1	3
	Illegitimate	1	3	4
		3	4	7

Birth Rate		Rural District		England and Wales
Per 1,000 population		18.7		19.1
Still-birth Rate				
Per 1,000 population		0.71		0.53
Deaths		M.	F.	Total
Deaths from all causes		51	57	108
		—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :				
Legitimate		3	3	6
Illegitimate		0	0	0
		—	—	—
		3	3	6
		—	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 2 years				
from Diarrhoea and Enteritis		0	0	0
Death Rate		Rural District		England and Wales
Per 1,000 population		11.1		11.5
Infants under 1 year				
per 1,000 live births		33		43
Infants under 2 years				
from Diarrhoea and Enteritis				
per 1,000 live births		0.00		4.4

**Analysis of deaths from all causes.**

			Male	Female	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	1	1
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	...	2	1	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	—	—	—
Influenza	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	...	—	—	—
Acute infective encephalitis	...	...	—	1	1
Cancer of mouth and œsophagus	...	...	—	—	—
Cancer of uterus	...	...	—	1	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	—	2
Cancer of breast	...	...	—	2	2
Cancer of all other sites	...	...	5	5	10
Diabetes	...	...	—	1	1
Intracranial vascular lesions	...	...	6	9	15
Heart disease	...	...	20	14	34
Other diseases of the circulatory system	...	...	—	—	—
Bronchitis	...	...	5	3	8
Carried forward	...	...	40	38	78

			Male	Female	Total
Brought forward	...	...	40	38	78
Pneumonia	...	...	—	1	1
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	—	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	—	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	...	—	—	—
Appendicitis	...	...	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases	...	...	1	1	2
Nephritis	...	...	2	3	5
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	...	...	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	...	...	—	—	—
Premature birth	...	...	—	—	—
Congenital malformation; Birth injuries and infantile diseases	...	...	2	2	4
Suicide	...	...	—	—	—
Road traffic accidents	...	...	1	—	1
Other violent causes	...	...	—	2	2
All other causes	...	...	5	8	13
			51	57	108

NOTE.—By far the largest “cause of death” it will be seen, is from “heart disease.” It must be realised that nearly all the deaths from this cause occur in the very old age groups and it is not to be taken as evidence of rheumatic or other acute heart affections.

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

- I(a) One part-time Medical Officer who is a full-time Public Health Officer acting also for the Bradford-on-Avon U.D., the Trowbridge U.D., and being in addition an Assistant County Medical Officer: One part-time M.O. General Practitioner.
- (b) One whole-time Sanitary Inspector.
- II(a) **Laboratory facilities:** No change. The County Pathologist, Salisbury General Infirmary, undertakes all routine examination of swabs, blood and sputum specimens and water samples for bacteriological and chemical analyses.
- (b) **Ambulance facilities:**
1. Melksham portion of area—Melksham Hospital ambulance.
  2. Bradford-on-Avon portion of area—St. John's ambulance; Bradford-on-Avon ambulance.
  3. Trowbridge, Bradford-on-Avon and Melksham Town ambulances, and Red Cross and St. John ambulance and Hospital Car service. (Local Organiser, Miss Bond, Court House, Trowbridge).
  4. Bath portion of area—Ambulances from Bath as required; and the Car Pool Service operating through the County Council.
- (c) **Nursing in the Home:** The villages are covered by the Wilts Nursing Association; most of the nurses have more than one village to attend.

- (d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics :** The Child Welfare Clinics in each of Trowbridge, Bradford-on-Avon and Melksham, receive children from the neighbouring districts. Westwood village has a Weighing Clinic taken by the County Health Visitor for the district.
- (e) **Hospital Accommodation and Maternity Homes.**
1. Melksham and District Hospital.
  2. Trowbridge and District Hospital, with Maternity Block.
  3. Bradford-on-Avon and District Hospital.
  4. Bath Royal United and St. Martin's Hospitals ; Mineral Water Hospital.
- (f) **Infectious Diseases Hospital :**

Bradley Road, Trowbridge.—This hospital, originally intended for Trowbridge, Bradford-on-Avon, Melksham and the neighbouring rural districts, has for the last few years also had to admit cases from the Westbury-Warminster area, due to the closing of the Warminster Isolation Hospital for lack of staff.

#### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

##### **WATER SUPPLIES.**

As full details were given of the supplies to the various parts of the district in the report for 1945, and as no change had occurred except in one district (Beanacre) it seems necessary only to add information on a scheme—greatly to be desired, but so far showing no signs of fulfilment.

##### **Atworth and South Wraxall—with Shaw and Whitley.**

When the suggestion was made to the Council, that they, in collaboration with the Trowbridge and Melksham Water Board might be able to purchase water in bulk such as to supply the above villages, it seemed too good to be true. The Council and Water Board immediately started investigations, and by August affairs were so far on that Public Inquiries were held by Inspectors of the Ministry of Health into the proposed schemes. Hopes were raised that the necessary loan sanctions would be received in order that work might be started in time to obviate the inhabitants' difficulties, but by the end of the year, no such permission to proceed had been received either by the Council or by the Water Board, and the Council were reluctantly bound to accept the fact that the next summer would find the villages in the same state as before.

The original scheme was simple.

A sufficient bulk of water was to be brought from the Chippenham Rural boundary into Atworth village; a supply would be drawn off for South Wraxall; the village would be supplied and the remaining large amount would be taken over at the further boundary by the Water Board to supply Shaw and Whitley and the northernmost part of Melksham Town.

##### **Beanacre.**

This village has been connected to the mains of the Trowbridge and Melksham Water Board. It may be noted that this village lies in the northern area of the Board's jurisdiction; the part involved in the above larger scheme.

#### **HOUSING.**

**Temporary.** The 20 pre-fabricated houses at Holt were occupied during the year.

**Permanent.** Sites have been arranged for houses in each village. By the end of the year the position was as follows :—



Broughton Gifford	...	...	18 under construction (Traditional Type).
Hilperton	...	...	4 under construction (Swedish Timber).
Staverton	...	...	4 under construction (Swedish Timber).
Wingfield	...	...	4 under construction (Traditional Type).
Atworth	...	...	Site approved and purchased.
Hilperton	...	...	Site approved.
Holt	...	...	Site approved and purchased.
Limpley Stoke	...	...	Site approved and purchased.
Melksham Without	...	...	Site submitted for approval.
Monkton Farleigh	...	...	Site submitted for approval.
Senington	...	...	Site approved and purchased.
South Wraxall	...	...	Site approved and purchased.
Westwood	...	...	Site submitted for approval.
Winsley	...	...	Site approved and Compulsory Purchase Order confirmed.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

#### Notifications received arranged for Sex and Age Groups.

Age Group	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Diphtheria	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
1	—	1	3	—	2	1	—	1
3	—	1	3	4	3	—	—	—
5	6	4	4	5	4	2	—	—
10	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	6	8	11	11	11	3	—	1
Non-civilian 15 and upwards	14	—	—	—	14	—	—	—

  

Age Group	Pneumonia		Encephalitis		Cerebro-spinal Fever		Erysipelas	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
45	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	4	—	1	1	—	1	—

**Diphtheria.** Immunisation was carried out continuously by the County Council, great assistance being given by the school staffs, who assisted greatly by allowing the under school-age children to attend the sessions held at the schools.

We are grateful to the County Medical Officer for supplying the following details.

---

 IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.
 

---

Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1946.

Age at 31st December, 1946	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
<i>i.e.</i> , born in year	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1937-41	1932-6	
Number Immunised ...	—	69	86	98	82	465	518	1318
Estimated Mid-Year Population 1945 ...	825					1380		2205

There was one death registered as Diphtheria. This occurred in an un-immunised child of 2 years. There was no evidence whence the child had acquired the disease and no contact cases occurred.

It cannot be emphasised too greatly that the protection of child life offered by immunisation is of the greatest value; both to parents of individual children and to all children and the State in general.

JEAN MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

D. LEIGH SPENCE, M.A., M.B.

*December, 1947.*

*Medical Officers of Health.*